The Seuerall
Confeſsions,

of Thomas Norton, and
Chriſtopher Norton:
two of the Northern Rebels:
vvho ſuffred at Tiburne,
and were drawen,
hanged, and quar-
tered, for
Treaſon.

May. xxvii.

1570.

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Johnes.

The Confeſsion of

Thomas Norton, whiche he made at his Death, in forme as hereafter foloweth.

ON Saterdaye beinge the .xxvii. Daye of May, Thomas Norton and Chriſtopher Norton of Yorkeſhyre, beynge both condemned of hye Treaſon agaynſte the Queenes Maieſties Perſon: were deliuered by the Lieutenant of the Tower, to the Shyrieffes of London: and were both layde on a Hurddell, & ſo drawen from the Tower thorowe the Citie of London to Tyburne (the place of Execution:) hauynge (beſides many Officers, and a multitude of others, a godly Preacher rydynge beſyde them, alwaye comfortynge

and earnestly exhortyng them all the waye to acknowledge their fact, to discharge their Conscience and to bee truelye repentant and hartelye sorie for the same.

And beinge come to the place of Execution, Proclamation was made of the cause of their Death: Thomas Norton the Elderman was first executed, who toke his death in this wise. He beynge come vp, and standing vpon the Cart with the Roape aboute his necke. The Preacher requested hym earnestly to acknowledge his offence in rebellyng against God & his Prynce and to aske God mercie for his sinnes, and of the Queenes Maiestie forgeuenesse for his Disobedience: He answered: that for the offence made and cõmitted towardes the Quenes Maiestie, he had the law for it: & therfore must suffre death, and to that ende he was com thy-

ther,

ther, and so asked God forgeuenes for his offences. Then he beyng requested by the Preacher, to saye the Lordes Prayer, he immediatlye began to saye the same in Laten: And beynge disturbed by the Preacher, who wylled hym to saye it as God hath cõmaunded, and as euery true Christian ought to doo, (that is to saye in the vulgar tongue, that all the Audience might beare Witnes how he died a true Christian. Sir (quoth hee) and aunswered verie obstinatlye that hee woulde praye in Laten, and therfore prayed hym that hee would not molest his Conscience. Then the Secondarie bad hym if he would needes saie it in Laten, to saye it then secretly to hymselfe, and so he did. His Laten Praiers beynge ended. The Preacher not neglectynge his duetie, exhorted hym verie earnestlye to saye the

Lordes Prayer and the Beleife in Englysh from the Bottome of his Harte, as euerie true Christian ought to doo: At last, after much Exhortacion, he graunted to saye it in Englysche, and so sayde the Lordes Praier in Englysh, wherunto he added the Aue Marie, and then the Beleife: And then hee desyred, not onelye the Audience, but also all the Sainctes in Heauen to praye for hym, bothe then and at all tymes, aswell after his Death, as then he beynge alyue. Then the Preacher bad hym put his whole hope and truste in the Death and Bloudsheddynge of Christe our Sauiour, and by hym onelye hoape to be saued. With that the Carte was drawen awaye, and there he honge a certayne space, and then was taken downe and quartered in the presence of his Nephew Christopher

Norton

Norton, that then presently
muste drynck of the same Cup.

FINIS.

The ende and Con-

fession of Christopher Norton:
Who as it seemed, died
more repentant, and
more Christian-
lyke, then his
vnckle did.

CHRISTOPHER Norton, the yonger man, after he had beheld the Death of his Vnckle, aswell his quarterynge as other wayes, knowyng

and beynge well assured, that hee hym selfe muste folowe the same waye, seemde to be verie repentant and heartelye sorie for his Offence: and immediatly kneeled downe on the grounde before hee came vp to the Cart with his face Eastward, and made his Praiers vnto God: and afterwarde stepping vp to the Carte, and then beynge asked by the Preacher, whyther he dyd beleue and hoape to be saued by Christes Deathe and Bloudsheddynge: he made Aunswere that hee dyd verylie so beleue and hoapte to bee saued by no other meanes: and therfore besoughte all the Audience that then were present to beare Witnesse that hee there dyed a true Christian. And beynge asked whither he did acknowledge and confesse that he had deserued to dye: and whyther he hadde not

both

both offended God & the Queues Maiestie: he made answere that he had worthely deserued ꝧ death and therefore besought God and all men to forgeue him. And further did earnestly exhorte all men to take example by him, for committing the like. And immediatly he did enquire whether any there did know one Phillip Sturley that now is Captaine in Scotlande: there was some made answer ꝧ they did know him. Then he declared how he was the causer of his death: neuertheless hee dyd forgeue it hym: and moreouer besought any that knew him, when tyme woulde serue to let hym vnderstande it. This talke beynge ended, he desyred the People that they woulde praye with hym:
And when he and the people had sayd the Lordes Praier together then hee made his Confession to

God in this wyse.

I Christopher Norton, that am
come hyther to take my Deathe:
beynge iustly condemned by the
Lawes of the Realme, beynge
sounde of Bodie and of a perfecte
remembrance, doth here acknow-
ledge and confesse my good Lorde
and Sauiour, before the Throne
of thy Maiestie, my haynous of-
fence, by me committed agaynst
God and my Prince: desyrynge
thee good Lorde, from the verie
bottom of my harte, to haue mer-
cie on me miserable and wretched
synner, which am now commynge
to thee, beyng here now redie to
die. O most merciful Lorde receiue
me a sinfull wretch, and refuse me
not, but harken vnto my voyce.
With that the Hangman execu-
ted his office, and beyng hanged
a little while, and then cut downe
the Butcher opening him, and as
he

he tooke out his Bowels he cried, and said, Oh, Lorde, Lorde, haue mercie on me, and so yelded vp the Ghost: then being likewise quartered as the other was, and their Bowels burnt, as the maner is: their Quarters were put into a Basket, prouided for the purpose, and so caried to Newgate, where they were perboylde. And afterward their Heads set on London Brydge, and their Quarters set vp on sundrie seuerall gates of the Citie of London, for an example to all Traytours and Rebels for committinge hie Treason against God and their Prince. God graũt it may be a speciall warning for all men: & God turne the hartes of all those that are maliciouslie bent against Elizabeth our Queene and Soueraigne of this Realme, and sende her a tryumphant Victorie ouer all her Enemies. Amen.

God saue the Queene.